

back to be a teacher. She left a promising career as a architect to come back to a community that is dear to her heart.

It's that spirit, by the way, that is going to allow me to predict with certainty, New Orleans' better days are ahead for the New Orleans people. I mean, this is a—and there are stories like Rebecca all over this community, people who have heard a call to come back and help. No better way to help, by the way, than to teach.

But there are all kinds of different ways people can help the people of New Orleans and the gulf coast recover. You can contribute to the NGOs or the local organizations that are still helping heal hearts. You can help with sending books to schools. You can get on web sites to determine where the needs are. And if you're a citizen of this country who cares about making sure this part of the region fully recovers, please participate. Please find a way to help and continue to do so.

So, Governor, I'm honored you're here. Laura and I are thrilled to be in this school. We're really pleased that MLK School has given us an opportunity to herald excellence. We care deeply about the folks in this part of the world. We ask for God's blessings on the families who still hurt and suffer. And we thank God for the recovery efforts that thus far have taken place.

Thank you for your time.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School for Science and Technology. In his remarks, he referred to Representative William J. Jefferson of Louisiana; Hilda Young, president, Friends of King Board; Eric Johnson, seventh grade math teacher, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School for Science and Technology; and Gary Robichaux, former principal, KIPP McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts.

### Remarks Following a Visit With New Homeowners in New Orleans

August 29, 2007

**The President.** We have just—Laura and I have just been given a tour by the Whites in their new home. And they're going to be moving into this home this weekend maybe.

**Gen White.** Yes. This weekend.

**The President.** There's nothing more hopeful than to be with somebody who says, "Welcome to my home," particularly given the fact that these mixed-use housing projects have replaced old-style, low-income housing projects that, frankly, didn't work. In other words, the storm came, created a lot of heartbreak and heartache, but people took a different look at how best to help people in their homes.

And we're in this beautiful project. This is a stunning project. So I'm with homeowners-to-be, renters. Here's a homeowner-to-be right here. Right across the street, as a matter of fact, isn't that right? People are going to be able to say, "This is my home."

This is really a remarkable project. For people in New Orleans who remember what this site was like compared to what it is today, they've got to be full of hope. And so I appreciate the builders. I appreciate Alphonso Jackson in Housing and Urban Development, the group that have helped get this project started. But most of all, I appreciate the homeowners-to-be, people who are working hard to be able to say, "This is my home." And we really appreciate you giving us a chance to come by.

**Ms. White.** Thank you.

**The President.** And we wish you all the very best in your new home. Congratulations to you.

Thank you all. Good job. Thank you. Good luck to you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:06 a.m. at the River Garden Housing Complex.

### Remarks on Gulf Coast Reconstruction in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

August 29, 2007

Thank you all for coming. This is the second anniversary of an event that changed a lot of people's lives here in southern Mississippi and up and down the coast. And Laura and I are honored to be with some of those who endured the storm and have dedicated their lives to rebuilding this part of the world.